

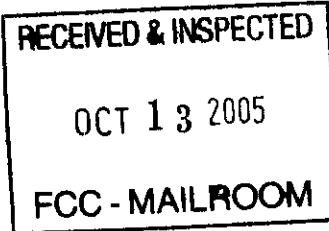


ILLINOIS

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Paul J. Campbell, Acting Director



**Letter of Appeal – CC Docket No. 02-6**

**Request for Review**

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
9300 East Hampton Drive  
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Date: October 12, 2005

**Applicant Name:**

Illinois Century Network  
120 W. Jefferson St. Suite B  
Springfield, IL 62702  
Phone: (217) 557-6555  
Fax: (217) 557-6550

Contact: Tom Oseland  
Phone: (217) 557-6527  
E-mail: tom.oseland@illinois.gov

**Program Funding Year 2004**

**Entity Number:** 231202

**Form 471 Application Number:** 394841

**FRN's:** 1084512, 1084544, 1084550, 1084559, 1084564, 1084569, 1084574, 1084583,  
1084667, 1084722, 1084741, 1084755, 1084815, 1084822, 1084841, 1084863,  
1084880, 1142348, 1176836, 1177262

**Total program year pre-discount amount:** \$ 8,690,262.00

**Funding Commitment Requests:** \$ 5,474,865.04

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Dear Sirs:

This is a letter of appeal regarding the recent SLD decision to deny funding requests, and the subsequent appeal of this decision, made by the Illinois Century Network ("ICN" or "applicant") for E-rate Funding Year 2004. It is the ICN's position that the decision was untimely, applied retroactively, and – from a content perspective – was neither substantive, nor reflective of the history and facts of this case.

### **Overview of the Case**

On February 2, 2004, the ICN applied on a Form 471 for E-rate eligible services for Funding Year 2004, effective July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. The request included a series of Letters of Agency ("LOA"), which allowed the ICN to apply on behalf of almost 3000 eligible K-12 schools, for which it provides free internet access. The application process continued and the ICN responded to several follow-up data requests from the SLD. None of the SLD's data requests alluded to problems with the LOAs, which had been accepted without question in prior funding years. Funding Year 2003 was the sixth year the ICN had applied for, and received, E-rate funding to help support the ICN's objectives of connectivity for schools and libraries throughout the State of Illinois.

On April 21, 2005 a Funding Commitment Decision Letter (FCDL) dated April 19, 2005, was received by the Illinois Century Network. This FCDL, regarding funding requests made by the ICN for E-rate Funding Year 2004, communicated that all funds requested, in the amount of \$5,474,865.04, were "Denied" in full.

The Funding Commitment Decision Explanation stated for each Funding Request Number is "***Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.***" No further reason or explanation is stated to clarify this decision.

On April 22, 2005, the ICN contacted Mr. Dick Destaffaney, of the SLD consortium review group. Mr. Destaffaney was asked if he could further explain the decision to deny funding to the ICN, and to provide information regarding the rules or guidelines that it is based upon. Mr. Destaffaney stated that he was not allowed to divulge this information and referred inquiries to USAC ombudsman, Bob Spiller. After pursuing clarification, Mr. Destaffaney did allude to the prior decision made by the SLD to invalidate the Letter of Agency (LOA) used by the ICN. This decision to invalidate the original LOA led to the denial of funds.

For reasons stated below, the ICN submitted an appeal to the SLD regarding the SLD's decision to invalidate the original LOA. The ICN is now appealing the SLD's decision to deny funds to the ICN for Funding Year 2004. The ICN asserts that the SLD placed the ICN in an unreasonable situation due to the content and timeliness of the decision to invalidate the original LOAs. The SLD's invalidation notification was sent to the ICN long after the ability to effectively address requests concerning the Funding Year 2004

application. Equally as important, the decision regarding the ICN's LOA, which would be used to cover both Funding Years 2004 and 2005, was sent extremely late in the Funding Year 2005 application process. **Only nine days remained before the close of the Funding Year 2005 filing window, concurrent with the deadline by which all LOAs were required to be signed by ICN consortium members due to revised program rules.**

### **Untimely and Retroactive Decision to Invalidate the Original LOAs**

Per the evidence submitted, the ICN received notice of the LOA invalidation on February 9, 2005, and was required to submit new LOAs for all of its consortium members for Funding Year 2004 by no later than February 18, 2005. The SLD notified the ICN that it was invalidating the LOA used by the ICN and was requiring that it be revised and then resubmitted. According to revised USAC program rules, all Funding Year 2005 LOAs were required to be signed and dated no later than the Form 471 certification date. The ICN sees no evidence that such a rule existed for Funding Year 2004. The invalidation decision, which included a request for submission of revised LOAs by February 18, 2005, effectively imposed a deadline where none previously existed.

The decision regarding the ICN's LOA, intending to cover both the 2004 and 2005 Funding Years, effectively jeopardized the ICN's 2005 application as well.

Please note that although the SLD's own web site did not post revised notification concerning LOA requirements until **February 1, 2005**, USAC retroactively invalidated ICN's LOAs, originally filed with the Funding Year 2004 application. The majority of these LOAs were submitted to the SLD in October 2004 at the request of consortium review team member, Robert Carreon. Several subsequent exchanges with Mr. Carreon ensued over the following three months as the ICN worked through the process of verifying the entities included on the Block 4 portion of our Funding Year 2004 form 471, for which we had an LOA on file. **At no time in this process was the validity of the original LOA used by the ICN ever questioned. In effect, the SLD devised new standards, then retroactively and suddenly imposed them on the ICN for Funding Year 2004.**

The SLD's untimely decision to invalidate the original LOA provided the ICN virtually no time to complete the task of responding to their request for new documentation. To fulfill this request, the ICN would need to collect revised LOAs covering almost 3000 consortium member entities, and then re-submit hardcopies to the SLD **in only nine days!** After the ICN made a request for an extension of the original February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline, the SLD granted an insignificant seven-day extension to February 24, 2005.

In addition, all LOAs submitted for the 2005 Funding Year had to be dated and received by the ICN's application certification date. That date, February 17, 2005, was determined by the electronic submission of the application and certification form.

In an effort to comply, the limited ICN staff immediately sent revised LOAs to as many ICN constituents as possible. ICN staff worked overtime to respond to the SLD's unfortunate and untimely request for new LOAs. The ICN forwarded to its constituents a package containing the "new" LOAs for Funding Years 2004 and 2005 that included the revised required language, as best interpreted by the ICN. Ironically, the SLD will not approve or disapprove an LOA before its submission as documentation to support E-rate funding requests.

Despite the obstacles, the ICN was able to obtain signatures on the revised LOAs from 186 Illinois school districts during the period allowed by the SLD. These signatures covered 1638 Illinois schools and 957,742 eligible students. However, the ICN was not able to replace all of the LOAs that were originally sent to the SLD.

The ICN submits that any other similarly-sized entity could not realistically and successfully respond to a request from the SLD to manually replace all LOAs in the very short time period imposed.

### **Content of the LOAs in Question**

Not only does the ICN disagree with the timing of the decision to invalidate the LOAs, but we also disagree with **the basis** of the SLD's decision to invalidate the original LOAs. As explained below, the difference between the previously approved LOAs and the new, hopefully, "valid LOAs" is neither significant nor substantive. The very slight revision described below has no impact on the ICN constituents desire to be part of the network or their full knowledge and consent that the ICN would apply for E-rate funding on their behalf.

In conversations with the SLD subsequent to their decision to invalidate the LOA used by the ICN, the specific reason given for the denial of the original LOA was the term "eligible services" used to describe the services covered on the LOA. According to the discussion, the SLD requires the LOA to contain more specific language than "eligible services".

Specifically, the original LOA – which the SLD had accepted **without reservation in years past**, contained the following language:

"We the Participant (District/School/Library Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ authorize the Illinois Century Network (ICN), and/or any of its fiscal/administrative agents, including the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and/or the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to act as a consortium lead on our behalf in matters related specifically to any State and Federal discount programs (such as Universal Service Program - E-rate - and others) solely for the purposes of **securing those discounts on ICN's eligible services.**

We authorize the ICN to engage on our behalf in the procurement processes, in the submission of forms, and in the overall administration of these programs solely for the purposes of securing those discounts on **ICN's eligible services.** (emphasis added)

Apparently the SLD invalidated the LOAs because it now required the ICN to add the term "telecommunications and internet access" so that the highlighted sections above would read:

**"securing those discounts on ICN's eligible telecommunications services and internet access services."**

In short, the SLD's required change on the LOA amounts to adding the words "telecommunications services and internet access" to the original letter. To say the least, this new requirement is substantively questionable in the context of the entire letter and the history of the ICN. Reading through the rest of the LOA describes the services context of the LOA and the rules that must be followed in a format the SLD previously found acceptable.

The ICN has not, and will not, apply for ineligible services on behalf of its constituents. The ICN's nine-year history of service to its constituents, and its adherence to program rules in receiving E-rate funds in prior years -- in the face of very tight SLD scrutiny -- proves that the ICN has only asked for support for eligible services on behalf of consenting schools and libraries.

Adding the words "telecommunications services and internet access" adds nothing to an established relationship between the ICN and its constituents or between the ICN and the SLD. No program rules were ever violated with the original LOA. This LOA was distributed to ICN consortium members only after several consultations with the SLD to determine the acceptability of this document. We believe it was an arbitrary and substantively questionable decision by the SLD to invalidate the original LOA in February 2005 based on needing three words added to the revised LOA.

### **Similar Cases**

In support of this appeal, the ICN cites two important cases where we believe FCC decisions support the ICN's position in this case:

#### **Naperville Community School District 203 – SLD-203343 – FCC Order 01-73**

We believe the ICN case has many similarities to the Naperville case, where the Commission determined that the SLD should not have returned an application without consideration for failure to meet the SLD's minimum processing standards where among other issues:

**“(1) the request for information was a first-time information requirement on a revised form, thereby possibly leading to confusion on the part of the applicants; (2) the omitted information could be easily discerned by SLD through examination of other information included in the application; and (3) the application is otherwise substantially complete.”<sup>1</sup>**

As stated herein: the ICN has a long history of serving Illinois schools prior to this denial by the SLD; the ICN was asked for this revision to the existing LOA in a very untimely fashion; and the ICN was using an LOA that the SLD had previously approved.

Finally -- and perhaps most importantly -- the ICN fails to see how the SLD could not discern the willingness of the members of the consortium to be members of the ICN with the existing LOA. As in the *Naperville* case cited above, the omitted information -- the words “telecommunications and internet access” -- could have easily been discerned by the SLD by simply reviewing the original LOA.

Upon reviewing the record in the *Naperville* case, we conclude that the ICN's case presents circumstances factually similar to those in *Naperville* and meets the standards articulated in *Naperville*. Accordingly, the ICN would ask that the FCC accept the original LOAs and remand the applications to SLD for processing pursuant to the Commission's rules.

#### **Project Interconnect – DA 01-1620**

The ICN would also cite FCC case number **DA 01-1620** in support of this appeal. This case involves a Request for Review filed by Project Interconnect, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. In particular, the ICN would reference paragraph 14, where the FCC recognizes the existing established participation of Project Interconnect's consortium members based on having letters of membership already in their possession.

Similarly, the ICN's consortium members established relationship to and participation in the consortium is well established by the Letters of Agency collected during previous E-rate funding years. Additionally, these LOAs previously deemed acceptable by the SLD make use of the exact terminology used in describing services that the LOA submitted in support of the 2004 funding year request contains. To now invalidate this Letter of Agency and subsequently deny the ICN funding requests is inconsistent with the precedent established in prior funding years.

The ICN further notes that in paragraph 14 of this case, the FCC concludes that the SLD should not have denied support for the entire *Project Interconnect* consortium. The FCC states:

“We note initially that the consortium leader, Project Interconnect, had letters of membership from each of its members establishing their participation in the

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<sup>1</sup> *Request for Review by Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc.*, File No. SLD-203343, CC Dockets No. 96-45 and 97-21, Order, FCC 01-73 (rel. February x, 2001).

consortium. Thus, there is no evidence that Project Interconnect was acting in bad faith in putting forward an application seeking support for these districts, a factor that might warrant a more general denial."

The ICN was placed in similar circumstances by the SLD's actions. The ICN understands the importance of the LOA. The ICN has complied with the rules regarding these during past funding years and continued to do so during the funding years in question here. The ICN believes there is no doubt that the originally approved LOA appropriately notified the ICN's constituent schools and libraries that the ICN was applying on their behalf for E-rate program support on eligible services.

### **Impact of the Decision**

The ICN asks the FCC to note that the ICN is one of the largest state-funded networks in the US, serving more than 4,500 of Illinois public and non-public K-12 schools and libraries. **The ICN provided e-rate eligible services to Illinois schools and libraries before E-rate existed as a part of the commitment of the State of Illinois to support universal internet access for schools and libraries.** The ICN provides free internet access to these schools and libraries, and accordingly, asks for E-rate support only on those eligible services.

**The ICN provides very real savings to our constituents and the E-rate program. Our very conservative estimates are that the ICN saves the E-rate program over \$14 million a year in telecommunications services and internet access funding disbursements by providing pooled internet access to schools at no charge.** These savings are real – if the ICN were not in service, Illinois schools and libraries would exercise the option of buying internet access services on the open market and seeking E-rate support for these clearly eligible services. **The net result in this scenario would be a significant increase in demands placed upon the E-rate program.** Quite simply, the ICN is one of the best examples of the E-rate program's goal of consolidating services and reducing unit costs.

This recent decision made by the SLD to deny funding support through the E-rate program to the ICN and the State of Illinois puts the services provided to Illinois' schools and libraries in serious jeopardy. **Without these supporting funds, it may no longer be feasible for the ICN to continue to provide internet access at no cost to its constituents.** The ICN may be forced to reduce or eliminate these services. In turn, the schools and libraries in the State of Illinois will have no option but to obtain these services on the open market through alternate providers and then to seek E-rate reimbursement for these costs. **Dramatic increases to the burden placed on the E-rate program will soon take place due to these circumstances.** It is not in the best interest of the FCC, USAC, the ICN, or the State of Illinois' schools and libraries to let this decision stand.

**Therefore, the ICN asks that the FCC reverse this decision made by the SLD to deny the funding requests submitted by the ICN for Funding Year 2004. We**

**maintain that both the original LOA and the revised LOA submitted by the ICN do indeed provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf its constituent members of the consortium. The ICN also maintains that the decision to invalidate our original LOAs was both mistaken from a content standpoint and very untimely. Had this decision to invalidate the LOAs not occurred, the ICN believes the decision to deny funding would not have been made and the funding request for Funding Year 2004 would move ahead accordingly.**

Respectfully,



Tom Oseland  
E-rate Coordinator, State of Illinois  
CMS/Illinois Century Network

cc: Mark Keam, Office of U.S. Senator Richard Durbin – IL  
Daniel Sepulveda, Office of U.S. Senator Barack Obama – IL  
Chris Sarley, Office of U.S. Representative Dennis Hastert – IL

Brian Daly, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor  
Paul Campbell, Acting Director, Central Management Services  
Jay Carlson, Deputy Director, Central Management Services  
Dominic Saebeler, Counsel/BCCS, Central Management Services  
Joel Vinson, Central Management Services

Attachments: Copy of Administrator's Decision on Appeal – dated September 28, 2005  
Copy of Funding Year 2004 Commitment Letter – dated April 19, 2005  
Copy of SLD Notification – dated February 9, 2005  
Copy of Original LOA  
Copy of Revised LOA





Universal Service Administrative Company  
Schools & Libraries Division

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**Administrator's Decision on Appeal – Funding Year 2004-2005**

September 28, 2005

Tom Oseland  
Illinois Century Network  
120 West Jefferson Street, Suite B  
Springfield, IL 62702

Re: Applicant Name: ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK  
Billed Entity Number: 231202  
Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
Funding Request Number(s): 1084512, 1084544, 1084550, 1084559, 1084564,  
1084569, 1084574, 1084583, 1084667, 1084722,  
1084741, 1084755, 1084815, 1084822, 1084841,  
1084863, 1084880, 1142348, 1176836, 1177262  
Your Correspondence Dated: April 04, 2005

After thorough review and investigation of all relevant facts, the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) has made its decision in regard to your appeal of SLD's Funding Year 2004 Funding Commitment Decision Letter for the Application Number indicated above. This letter explains the basis of SLD's decision. The date of this letter begins the 60-day time period for appealing this decision to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). If your Letter of Appeal included more than one Application Number, please note that you will receive a separate letter for each application.

Funding Request Number(s): 1084512, 1084544, 1084550, 1084559, 1084564,  
1084569, 1084574, 1084583, 1084667, 1084722,  
1084741, 1084755, 1084815, 1084822, 1084841,  
1084863, 1084880, 1142348, 1176836, 1177262

Decision on Appeal: **Denied**  
Explanation:

- In your appeal letter, you state that you were informed by phone and email that it had been determined by the SLD that the ICN Letter of Agency (LOA) was not valid for Program Years 2004 and 2005. You explain that the net effect of viewing these LOA's as invalid, could potentially deny the State of Illinois \$11.5 million in E-Rate funds. You explain that the original Letter of Agency is the same format used as in past years and was accepted. You explain that you are

aware that the term "eligible services" is no longer acceptable. Hence, your revised LOA now reads "eligible telecommunications services and internet services." The SLD staff you worked with were not willing to confirm if the revised language is sufficiently descriptive. You explain that you have compared this with the examples you were directed to on the SLD website and you feel you have complied with program guidelines.

- During the appeal review, the consortium review was examined to determine if the program rules and procedures were upheld. In the beginning of the consortia review, the authorized contact indicated that ICN would be removing entities from the Block 4. The original set of LOA's stated that the entity gives authority "solely for the purposes of securing those discounts on ICN's eligible services." You were informed that this was not a sufficient description of the services the consortia was authorized to purchase and were given the opportunity to provide revised LOA's. Samples of acceptable LOA's are available on the website see [www.sl.universalservice.org/data/pdf/LOA%20Sample\\_clean.pdf](http://www.sl.universalservice.org/data/pdf/LOA%20Sample_clean.pdf). You provided new LOA's that had acceptable language for only 50% of entities in the worksheet. Consequently, this is insufficient evidence that the consortia is authorized to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, all the members included in the consortium. On the Form 471 #394841, worksheet C lists all of the entities individually. The 20 FRNs on the application all reference worksheet C. Hence, all the FRNs are shared FRNs and are therefore denied. You have not brought forward any information on appeal that demonstrates that the SLD was incorrect in their determination. Consequently, the appeal is denied.

- During the Program Integrity Assurance review of your Form 471 application you were asked to provide evidence of your authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of the membership of, all the members included in the consortium. SLD denied your application because you failed to provide proof of your authorization to represent all entities for which services were sought and/or proof of their membership in the consortium. In your appeal, you did not show that the SLD's determination was incorrect. Consequently, your appeal is denied.

- You failed to provide evidence of your authority to file FCC Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of, the membership of all the members included in this consortium. FCC rules require that the Form 471 shall be signed by the person authorized to order telecommunications and other supported services for the eligible schools or libraries or the consortium. The Form 471 shall include that person's various certifications under oath, submitted on behalf of eligible entities applying for discounts. 47 C.F.R. § 54.504 (c)(1). During the course of the application review, the SLD may seek documentation to confirm the consortium leader's authorization to represent all entities in the application, proof of each entity's membership in the consortium and their knowledge of filing of the applicable Form (s) 471 on their behalf. See Instructions for Completing the Schools and Libraries Universal Service, Services Ordered and Certification Form (FCC Form 471), OMB 3060-0806 (October 2002) at Item 33.

If your appeal has been approved, but funding has been reduced or denied, you may appeal these decisions to either the SLD or the FCC. For appeals that have been denied

in full, partially approved, dismissed, or canceled, you may file an appeal with the FCC. You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received or postmarked within 60 days of the date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, send to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use the electronic filing options.

We thank you for your continued support, patience and cooperation during the appeal process.

Schools and Libraries Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company



**Universal Service Administrative Company**  
Schools & Libraries Division

**FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION LETTER**

(Funding Year 2004: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005)

April 19, 2005

Tom Oseland  
ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK  
120 WEST JEFFERSON SUITE B  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62702-5172

Re: Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
Funding Year 2004: 07/01/2004 - 06/30/2005  
Billed Entity Number: 231202  
Applicant's Form Identifier: icnyr7f471

Thank you for your Funding Year 2004 E-rate application and for any assistance you provided throughout our review. Here is the current status of the funding request(s) featured in the Funding Commitment Report at the end of this letter.

- The amount, \$5,474,865.04 is "Denied."

Please refer to the Funding Commitment Report on the page following this letter for specific funding request decisions and explanations.

The Important Reminders and Deadlines immediately preceding this letter are provided to assist you throughout the application process.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Review technology planning approval requirements
- Review CIPA Requirements
- File Form 486
- Invoice the SLD using the Form 474 (service providers) or Form 472 (Billed Entity)

**FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT**

On the pages following this letter, we have provided a Funding Commitment Report for the Form 471 application cited above. The enclosed report includes a list of the Funding Request Number(s) (FRNs) from your application. The SLD is also sending this information to your service provider(s) so preparations can be made to begin implementing your E-rate discount(s) after you file your Form 486. Immediately preceding the Funding Commitment Report, you will find a guide that provides a definition for each line of the Report.

**TO APPEAL THIS DECISION:**

If you wish to appeal the decision indicated in this letter, your appeal must be received by the SLD or postmarked within 60 days of the date of this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. In your letter of appeal:

1. Include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address (if available) for the person who can most readily discuss this appeal with us.
2. State outright that your letter is an appeal. Identify which Funding Commitment Decision(s) you are appealing. Indicate the relevant funding year and the date of the FCDL. Your letter of appeal must also include the Billed Entity Name, the

Form 471 Application Number, and the Billed Entity Number from the top of your letter.

3. When explaining your appeal, copy the language or text from the Funding Commitment Report that is at the heart of your appeal, to allow the SLD to more readily understand your appeal and respond appropriately. Please keep your letter to the point, and provide documentation to support your appeal. Be sure to keep copies of your correspondence and documentation.
4. Provide an authorized signature on your letter of appeal.

If you are submitting your appeal on paper, please send your appeal to: Letter of Appeal, Schools and Libraries Division, Box 125 - Correspondence Unit, 80 South Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Additional options for filing an appeal can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We encourage the use of either the e-mail or fax filing options.

While we encourage you to resolve your appeal with the SLD first, you have the option of filing an appeal directly with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). You should refer to CC Docket No. 02-6 on the first page of your appeal to the FCC. Your appeal must be received by the FCC or postmarked within 60 days of the above date on this letter. Failure to meet this requirement will result in automatic dismissal of your appeal. If you are submitting your appeal via United States Postal Service, sent to: FCC, Office of the Secretary, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Further information and options for filing an appeal directly with the FCC can be found in the "Appeals Procedure" posted in the Reference Area of the SLD web site or by contacting the Client Service Bureau. We strongly recommend that you use either the e-mail or fax filing options.

#### NOTICE ON RULES AND FUNDS AVAILABILITY

Applicants' receipt of funding commitments is contingent on their compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements of the Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism. Applicants who have received funding commitments continue to be subject to audits and other reviews that USAC and/or the FCC may undertake periodically to assure that funds that have been committed are being used in accordance with all such requirements. The SLD may be required to reduce or cancel funding commitments that were not issued in accordance with such requirements, whether due to action or inaction, including but not limited to that by the SLD, the applicant, or the service provider. The SLD, and other appropriate authorities (including but not limited to USAC and the FCC), may pursue enforcement actions and other means of recourse to collect erroneously disbursed funds. The timing of payment of invoices may also be affected by the availability of funds based on the amount of funds collected from contributing telecommunications companies.

Schools and Libraries Division  
Universal Service Administrative Company

## A GUIDE TO THE FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

A report for each E-rate funding request from your application is attached to this letter. We are providing the following definitions for the items in that report.

**FORM 471 APPLICATION NUMBER:** The unique identifier assigned to a Form 471 application by the SLD.

**FUNDING REQUEST NUMBER (FRN):** A Funding Request Number is assigned by the SLD to each Block 5 of your Form 471 once an application has been processed. This number is used to report to applicants and service providers the status of individual funding requests submitted on a Form 471.

**FUNDING STATUS:** Each FRN will have one of the following definitions:

1. An FRN that is "Funded" is approved at the level that the SLD determined is appropriate for this FRN. The funding level will generally be the level requested unless the SLD determines during the application review process that some adjustment is appropriate.
2. An FRN that is "Not Funded" is one for which no funds were committed. The reason for the decision will be briefly explained in the "Funding Commitment Decision Explanation." An FRN may be "Not Funded" because the request does not comply with program rules, or because the total amount of funding available for this Funding Year was insufficient to fund all requests.
3. An FRN that is "As Yet Unfunded" reflects a temporary status that is assigned to an FRN when the SLD is uncertain at the time the letter is generated whether there will be sufficient funds to make commitments for requests for Internal Connections at a particular discount level. For example, if your application included requests for discounts on both Telecommunications Services and Internal Connections, you might receive a letter with funding commitments for your Telecommunications Services funding requests and a message that your Internal Connections requests are "As Yet Unfunded." You would receive one or more subsequent letters regarding the funding decision on your Internal Connections requests.

**SERVICES ORDERED:** The type of service ordered from the service provider, as shown on your Form 471.

**SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number):** A unique number assigned by the Universal Service Administrative Company to service providers seeking payment from the Universal Service Fund for participating in the universal service support mechanisms. A SPIN is also used to verify delivery of services and to arrange for payment.

**SERVICE PROVIDER NAME:** The legal name of the service provider.

**CONTRACT NUMBER:** The number of the contract between the eligible party and the service provider. This will be present only if a contract number was provided on your Form 471.

**BILLING ACCOUNT NUMBER:** The account number that your service provider has established with you for billing purposes. This will be present only if a Billing Account Number was provided on your Form 471.

**SERVICE START DATE:** The date services were reported to start for this FRN on your Form 471.

**CONTRACT EXPIRATION DATE:** The date the contract expires. This will be present only if a contract expiration date was provided on your Form 471.

**SITE IDENTIFIER:** The Entity Number listed in Form 471, Block 5, Item 22a. This will be present only for "site specific" FRNs.

**ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE RECURRING CHARGES:** Eligible monthly pre-discount amount approved for recurring charges multiplied by number of months of recurring service approved for the funding year.

**ANNUAL PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT FOR ELIGIBLE NON-RECURRING CHARGES:** Annual eligible non-recurring charges approved for the funding year.

**PRE-DISCOUNT AMOUNT:** Amount in Form 471, Block 5, Item 23I, as determined through the application review process.

DISCOUNT PERCENTAGE APPROVED BY THE SLD: The discount rate that the SLD has approved for this service.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION: This represents the total amount of funding that the SLD has reserved to reimburse your service provider for the approved discounts for this service for this funding year. It is important that you and your service provider both recognize that the SLD should be invoiced and the SLD may direct disbursement of discounts only for eligible, approved services actually rendered.

FUNDING COMMITMENT DECISION EXPLANATION: This entry provides an explanation of the amount in the "Funding Commitment Decision."

# FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
 Funding Request Number: 1084512 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143005375 Service Provider Name: Ameritech Advanced Data Service  
 Contract Number: TCVS1301  
 Billing Account Number: 217 S65 4063 648  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 09/15/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,682,269.56  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$1,682,269.56  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium. The dollars requested were reduced to remove the entity NEW HORIZONS SCHOOL at the applicant's request.

Funding Request Number: 1084544 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143003990 Service Provider Name: Comcast Business Communications  
 Contract Number: MTM  
 Billing Account Number: ICNCOMCAST1  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$23,633.40  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$23,633.40  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084550 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001192 Service Provider Name: AT&T Corp.  
 Contract Number: TCVS1301  
 Billing Account Number: 80008857882  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 09/15/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$2,000,899.68  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$2,000,899.68  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084559 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143022698 Service Provider Name: CITIZENS TEL OF ILLINOIS INC  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 2171960065  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$28,038.48  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$28,038.48  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.



# FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
 Funding Request Number: 1084564 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001882 Service Provider Name: Illinois Consolidated Telephone  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 10201550  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$43,975.92  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$43,975.92  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084569 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001871 Service Provider Name: Geneseo Tel. Co.  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: S978157016  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$5,450.88  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$5,450.88  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084574 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001878 Service Provider Name: Harrisonville Telephone Company  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 0011461FAS1026  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,409.28  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$1,409.28  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084583 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001879 Service Provider Name: Henry County Telephone Company  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 309FAS1029  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$2,068.92  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$2,068.92  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

# FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
 Funding Request Number: 1084667 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001890 Service Provider Name: Madison Telephone Company  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 14416  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$2,869.80  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$2,869.80  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084722 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143000074 Service Provider Name: McLeod USA Telecommunications  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 6136778  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$450,515.64  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$450,515.64  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084741 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143004467 Service Provider Name: Qwest Communications (formerly  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 319D220777  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$25,224.96  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$25,224.96  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084755 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143005695 Service Provider Name: Sprint Communications Co. L.P.  
 Contract Number: TCVS1301  
 Billing Account Number: 992911402  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 01/01/2006  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$989,298.84  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$989,298.84  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

# FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
 Funding Request Number: 1084815 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143004791 Service Provider Name: Verizon North Inc.  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 3091970684  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$813,281.64  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$813,281.64  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084822 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001907 Service Provider Name: Wabash Telephone Cooperative, 1  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 11713  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$1,677.96  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$1,677.96  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084841 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Internet Access  
 SPIN: 143001192 Service Provider Name: AT&T Corp.  
 Contract Number: ICN09052001COLV  
 Billing Account Number: 210674298117  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 09/17/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$616,224.00  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$616,224.00  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1084863 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Internet Access  
 SPIN: 143005695 Service Provider Name: Sprint Communications Co. L.P.  
 Contract Number: TCVS1301  
 Billing Account Number: 13119989  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 01/01/2006  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$705,625.80  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$705,625.80  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

# FUNDING COMMITMENT REPORT

Form 471 Application Number: 394841  
 Funding Request Number: 1084880 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Internet Access  
 SPIN: 143025540 Service Provider Name: Allegiance Business Internet  
 Contract Number: MTM  
 Billing Account Number: 32048615  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$347,748.60  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$347,748.60  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1142348 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Telecommunications Service  
 SPIN: 143001893 Service Provider Name: Mid Century Tel. Coop. Inc.  
 Contract Number: T  
 Billing Account Number: 1054ISE103  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$823.20  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$823.20  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1176836 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Internet Access  
 SPIN: 143021460 Service Provider Name: Level 3 Communications, LLC (Ge  
 Contract Number: ICN20022002  
 Billing Account Number: 28761  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 01/28/2007  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$307,747.44  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$307,747.44  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.

Funding Request Number: 1177262 Funding Status: Not Funded  
 Services Ordered: Internet Access  
 SPIN: 143004467 Service Provider Name: Qwest Communications (formerly  
 Contract Number: MTM  
 Billing Account Number: 54988042  
 Service Start Date: 07/01/2004  
 Contract Expiration Date: 06/30/2005  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Recurring Charges: \$641,478.00  
 Annual Pre-discount Amount for Eligible Non-recurring Charges: \$.00  
 Pre-discount Amount: \$641,478.00  
 Discount Percentage Approved by the SLD: N/A  
 Funding Commitment Decision: \$0.00 - Unauth. Consortium Members  
 Funding Commitment Decision Explanation: Consortium leader failed to provide evidence of authority to file Forms 471 on behalf of, or evidence of membership of, substantial number of members incl. in consortium.



Universal Service Administrative Company  
Schools & Libraries Division

TO: Tom Oseland/Joel Vinson  
PHONE: (217) 557-6527  
FAX: (217) 557-6550  
DATE: February 9, 2005  
SENDER: Robert Carreon  
RE: Consortium Review FY 2004-2005 (FY7)  
Response Due: February 18, 2005

|  |                                     |   |  |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urgent | <input type="checkbox"/> For Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|

Dear Tom/Joel,

This is to confirm our conversation and request that you obtain new documentation for Illinois Century Network (BEN 231202). As we discussed, the Letters of Agency (LOAs) you provided did not specify the type of services for which its members authorized the consortium to apply. This is a required element of Letters of Agency as described on the Schools and Libraries web page and in the guidelines included in our original verification request.

These documents/letters of agency should describe that: 1) the entity is a member of the Consortium, and 2) has authorized participation in the filing of the 471 application(s). The LOA must contain the following information:

- Name of Consortium Member.
- Name and Title of Consortium Leader.
- Dated Signature and Title of authorized person at member end.
- Dates that indicate the agreement is/was/will be in effect either during the application process or the actual funding year.
- **Type(s) of service(s) the consortium is authorized to procure.**

Once we receive the requested documents, we will complete our Consortium Review.

Please fax or e-mail the requested information to my attention. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

It is important that we receive all of the information requested so PIA can complete its review. **Failure to do so may result in a reduction or denial of funding.**

**If we do not receive the information within seven calendar days, your application will be reviewed using the information currently on file. If you need additional time to prepare your response, please let me know as soon as possible.**

Thank you for cooperation and continued support of the Universal Service Program.

Thank you,

Robert Carreon  
Schools and Libraries Division – Consortium Review  
Phone 973-428-7364  
FAX: 973-599-6576  
E-Mail: [rcarreo@sl.universalservice.org](mailto:rcarreo@sl.universalservice.org)

## **Provisions for Universal Service ("E-Rate") Program for Schools and Libraries**

**(For Public and Non-Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Libraries and any other E-Rate eligible members of the ICN Network):**

We the Participant (District/School/Library Name) \_\_\_\_\_ authorize the Illinois Century Network (ICN), and/or any of its fiscal/administrative agents, including the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and/or the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to act as a consortium lead on our behalf in matters related specifically to any State and Federal discount programs (such as Universal Service Program - E-rate - and others) solely for the purposes of securing those discounts on ICN's eligible services.

We authorize the ICN to engage on our behalf in the procurement processes, in the submission of forms, and in the overall administration of these programs solely for the purposes of securing those discounts on ICN's eligible services.

We understand that in submitting these forms on our behalf, ICN is making certifications for our school, district, library or library system. We are hereby simultaneously certifying compliance with the certifications below:

- That the schools in our system are all schools under the statutory definitions of elementary schools found in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Secs. 8801(14) and (25), do not operate as for profit businesses, and do not have endowments exceeding \$50 million.
- That the libraries or library consortia are eligible for assistance from a State library administrative agency under the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996 that do not operate as a for-profit business and whose budgets are completely separate from any school (including, but not limited to) elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- The eligible schools and libraries have secured access to all of the resources, including computers, training, software, maintenance, and electrical connections necessary to make effective use of the services purchased as well as to pay the discounted charges for discounted eligible services.
- I certify that the schools in our district (or library(ies)) are all covered, or will be covered at the time funded services are provided, by approved technology plans.

- That the subsidized services that the applicant receives provided by 47 U.S.C. Sec.254 will be used solely for educational purposes and will not be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.
- That the entity(ies) we represent have complied with all E-rate program rules and we acknowledge that failure to do so may result in denial of discount funding and/or cancellation of funding commitments.

This certification in no way limits the abilities of participant entities to file for "E-rate" (Universal Service Funds) or any other grants and programs on their own, nor does it abrogate any other rights and responsibilities of the Participant with the E-rate Program.

Please mark the appropriate years for which this certification was or will be effective:

- ☐ Funding Year 2004 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005)  
☐ Funding Year 2005 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)  
☐ Our organization is unable to certify compliance as described within this document

By signing this Agreement, I certify that I am authorized to submit this Agreement on behalf of the above participant entity(ies), that I have examined the provisions that relate to participation in the E-rate Program, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained herein are true.

I certify that I am authorized to sign this letter of agency and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; all information provided to the ICN for E-rate submission is true. I understand that persons willfully making false statements on E-rate forms or through this letter of agency can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. Secs. 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1001.

**Participant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Illinois Century Network**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title



## **Provisions for Universal Service ("E-Rate") Program for Schools and Libraries**

**(For Public and Non-Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Libraries and any other E-Rate eligible members of the ICN Network):**

We the Participant (District/School/Library Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ authorize the Illinois Century Network (ICN),  
and/or any of its fiscal/administrative agents, including the Illinois State Board of  
Education (ISBE), the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), and/or the Illinois  
Department of Central Management Services (CMS) to act as a consortium lead on our  
behalf in matters related specifically to any State and Federal discount programs (such as  
Universal Service Program - E-rate - and others) solely for the purposes of securing those  
discounts on ICN's eligible **Telecommunication Services** and **Internet Access Services**.

We authorize the ICN to engage on our behalf in the procurement processes, in the  
submission of forms, and in the overall administration of these programs solely for the  
purposes of securing those discounts on ICN's eligible **Telecommunication Services** and  
**Internet Access Services**.

We understand that in submitting these forms on our behalf, ICN is making certifications  
for our school, district, library or library system. We are hereby simultaneously certifying  
compliance with the certifications below:

- That the schools in our system are all schools under the statutory definitions of elementary schools found in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. Secs. 8801(14) and (25), do not operate as for profit businesses, and do not have endowments exceeding \$50 million.
- That the libraries or library consortia are eligible for assistance from a State library administrative agency under the Library Services and Technology Act of 1996 that do not operate as a for-profit business and whose budgets are completely separate from any school (including, but not limited to) elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- The eligible schools and libraries have secured access to all of the resources, including computers, training, software, maintenance, and electrical connections necessary to make effective use of the services purchased as well as to pay the discounted charges for discounted eligible services.
- I certify that the schools in our district (or library(ies)) are all covered, or will be covered at the time funded services are provided, by approved technology plans.

- That the subsidized services that the applicant receives provided by 47 U.S.C. Sec.254 will be used solely for educational purposes and will not be sold, resold, or transferred in consideration for money or any other thing of value.
- That the entity(ies) we represent have complied with all E-rate program rules and we acknowledge that failure to do so may result in denial of discount funding and/or cancellation of funding commitments.

This certification in no way limits the abilities of participant entities to file for "E-rate" (Universal Service Funds) or any other grants and programs on their own, nor does it abrogate any other rights and responsibilities of the Participant with the E-rate Program.

Please mark the appropriate years for which this certification was or will be effective:

☐ Funding Year 2004 (July 1, 2004 – June 30, 2005)  
☐ Funding Year 2005 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006)  
☐ Our organization is unable to certify compliance as described within this document

By signing this Agreement, I certify that I am authorized to submit this Agreement on behalf of the above participant entity(ies), that I have examined the provisions that relate to participation in the E-rate Program, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, all statements of fact contained herein are true.

I certify that I am authorized to sign this letter of agency and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief; all information provided to the ICN for E-rate submission is true. I understand that persons willfully making false statements on E-rate forms or through this letter of agency can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. Secs. 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1001.

**Participant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Illinois Century Network**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title